[*English*]

CARRYING CAPACITY OF INDIAN AIRLINES

1071. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the overall carrying capacity per-week of the Indian Airlines in the domestic sector during 1990-91 and the capacity utilisation thereof, route-wise, durring the year;

(b) the total carrying capacitv on the trunk routes i.e. services linking metropolitan cities and the average capacity utilisation thereof during the year;

(c) the names of cities above the population of one lakh which do not figure in the civil aviation map of the country at present; and

(d) whether the Government have a plan to link such cities which in many cases also serve as divisional or district headquarters by air service ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) The average carrying capacity per week of Indian Airlines during 1990-91 was about 165 million available seat kilometers and capacity utilisation measured in terms of seat factor during the year was 79.7 per cent.

(b) The average weekly carrying capacity on the trunk routes airlinking metropolitan cities was about 70 million available seat kilometers and the average capacity utilisation was 83 per cent.

(c) and (d) Places are airlinked on the basis of the commercial viability of providing air services to them. It is not a feasible proposition to provide airlinks to places on the basis of their population or on the basis of their being divisional or district headquarters.

[*Translation*]

COMMISSION AGENTS FOR BOOKING OF PARCELS IN RAILWAYS

1072. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways appoint commission agents at various stations, on licence basis for booking parcels;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for their appointments;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints of taking arbitrary charges by the commission agents from customers; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Agents are appointed by calling of tenders to work a City Booking Agency for booking parcel on behalf of the Railways.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On receipt of complaints regarding irregular charging and mismanagement by the Agents concerned, appropriate action ranging from imposition of penalities to termination of the agency contracts is taken on merits.

CONVERSION OF MAHAKAOSHAL EXPRESS INTO SUPERFAST TRAIN

1073. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Mahakaoshal Express running between Hazarat Nizamuddin, Delhi and Jabalpur into a superfast train or to increase its speed; and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.